

**INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE
PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR**
23rd World Congress – Mombasa, Kenya
April 2023

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Title of Resolution: On the necessity for affiliates, trustees and individual members of IPPNW to always be clear about who we represent

Submitted By: Vendela Englund
(Name of International Council Delegate or Board of Director Member)

Affiliate: SLMK, Sweden
Date Submitted: 15 April 2023
Received By: IPPNW Resolutions Committee

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following language be adopted as general practice in IPPNW and added to the “Roles and Responsibilities” policy document of IPPNW:

When a trustee, affiliate or individual member of IPPNW is taking part in or initiating actions, speaking or writing it should be clear whom she or he represents. This is imperative when addressing potentially controversial topics or when taking positions beyond our mission, as stated in our Constitution, section 2.1. The trustee, affiliate or individual member of IPPNW should consult the Executive Director whenever in doubt.

Members must also recognize that only co-presidents make statements for the federation of IPPNW and that the “Executive Director is responsible for promoting coordination among statements made by individuals representing the federation. This will ensure consistency of public messages.”

Reasons for Above:

In these challenging times of crises, conflicts, threats it is truly wonderful that we in IPPNW manage to continue together in our joint struggle to prevent nuclear war - never giving up the final goal: the abolition of nuclear weapons.
Besides this, our common agenda we as individuals and affiliates have different important topics on our agenda. This is how it can and must be. It is also stated in our constitution and the document “roles and responsibilities”. The situation and thus strategies, priorities and actions are very different in our countries.

If we are not crystal clear about who we are and represent when working with other than our common, core agenda there is a risk that statements or actions may cause conflict and splits between us. If we fail this when we “take other positions that are not inconsistent therewith”, it could also have a negative effect on someone else’s efforts that we cannot foresee .

Examples in Europe where there is not full agreement are: NATO expansion, nuclear power and sending military equipment to Ukraine. We cannot tell each other to engage in this or in some instances even what position to take. About NATO-enlargement as such or sending weapons to Ukraine, none of us can claim to represent “the IPPNW position” as there is none.

It is already clear that official statements of IPPNW shall be made by co-presidents and/or chair of the board, but there are many situations when statements or actions by others such as an affiliate, trustee or individual member might be interpreted as “being IPPNW”.

To keep it possible for us to have wider or tighter and slightly different agendas and to take different positions on some matters without risking our unity or confusion on what we are: International physicians for the prevention of nuclear war, I put forward to the international council this resolution for our best interest and unity.

Relevant Excerpt from IPPNW Constitution and “Roles and responsibilities”

Section 2.1 Mission: IPPNW shall be a non-partisan international federation of physicians’ organizations dedicated to research, education, and advocacy relevant to the prevention of nuclear war. To this end, IPPNW shall seek to prevent all wars, to promote non-violent conflict resolution, and to minimize the effects of war and preparations for war on health, development, and the environment.

Section 3.1 Affiliates and members: Affiliates (voting members) of IPPNW shall be national or regional medical organizations working for the aims described in the IPPNW mission.

The membership of a national affiliate shall be open to any physician who supports the goals and constitution of IPPNW.

Section 3.5 Rules for affiliates: IPPNW affiliates shall comply with IPPNW’s policies and rules and **may take other positions that are not inconsistent therewith.**

Section 4.3 Regional meetings of affiliates: At such meetings, (a) each affiliate in the region shall have one vote and (b) matters may include regional communication and education, formulating proposals to the Board and the International Council, adopting regional policies and programs (which may not be inconsistent with IPPNW policies and operating rules),

Roles and responsibilities - Representation: Recognizing that all Board members represent IPPNW, official statements of the federation shall be made by the (Co-)President(s) and the Chairperson of the Board, who may delegate this responsibility to other individuals. The Executive Director is responsible for promoting coordination among statements made by individuals representing the federation. This will ensure consistency of public messages.

Describe how this resolution might be implemented and by whom:

By all trustees, affiliates and individual members of IPPNW carefully observing the stated principle. The IPPNW Board will have oversight authority to ensure that the principle is understood and followed.

Estimate for amount of staff time and resources required to implement this resolution:

Negligible

Estimated expenses and sources of funding:

No anticipated expense.